TOWARDS AN OLD GROWTH STRATEGY

• Interim Report • Ministry of Forests • January 1991 •

TOWARD AN OLD GROWTH STRATEGY INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT: DECEMBER 1990

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

Initial Workshop November 1989

The Old Growth Strategy Project began with a public workshop held in Parksville on November 3-5, 1989. The 80 delegates invited to the workshop by the Ministry of Forests represented interested parties including environmental organizations, industry, native organizations, researchers and government agencies. Participants entered discussion on old growth issues; definitions; social, economic, environmental, and scientific objectives; research and inventory requirements; criteria for selecting old growth reserves and a blueprint for an old growth strategy. Recommendations arising out of this workshop led to the establishment of a formal project in April of 1990.

Project Organization

The project was organized into 5 working teams with membership representative of the various interests who participated in the original November 89 workshop. The teams were given broad terms of reference and invited to refine these into detailed objectives and work plans which were published in the project's Spring Bulletin of May 1990. The team assignments were to develop strategies for improving the state of ecological research and inventory; the articulation and measurement of old growth values; the review of relevant legislation, regulations and policy; the examination of old growth conserving forest management practices; and the conservation of old growth stands representative of the ecological zones of the province.

Inter-Ministerial Support

The project was given interministerial support by the Provincial Cabinet which established an Inter-ministry Management Committee (the IMC) representing the ministries of Forests: **Denis O'Gorman;** Parks: **Jake Masselink;** Regional and Economic Development: **Cathy Mayoh;** Environment: **Jim Walker;** and chaired by the Chief Forester, **John Cuthbert.** In addition, the project was provided with an internal liaison person within the Ministry of Forests: currently **Warren Mitchell,** previously **Bill Marshall;** a project facilitator: **Dr. Bruce Fraser;** and a project support office staffed by **Irene Ronalds,** and currently assisted by

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Eileen Fitzpatrick and **Gayle Nelson**. Desk-top publishing is provided by **Barbara Pelman** of Quay Words Ltd. Funding for the project was allocated for the 1990-91 fiscal year by the Ministry of Forests.

Liaison with Other Public Initiatives on Land Use

The Interministry Management Committee has been responsible for liaison with the Forest Resources Commission and the Round Table on Environment and Economy. The latter has two members who are also on the Old Growth Project: **Vicky Husband** and **Juergen Hansen** while the FRC public involvement processes have involved numerous participants in the old growth project. The official in charge of preparing the government paper on Environment 2001, **Jim Walker,** is a member of the IMC while the official responsible for the public participation in Parks Plan 90, **Derek Thompson,** is the chairman of a working team.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PROJECT

Team Chairpersons from Participating Ministries

Each of the 5 working teams was set up with a chairperson from a participating government ministry in order to provide access to resources, continuity of records, and corporate commitment to implementation of eventual results. The chairpersons include: **Andy MacKinnon** from the **Ministry of Forests** (***Ecological Research and Inventory***); **Bruce Seiffert** from **Ministry of Forests** (***Management Practices***); **Derek Thompson** from **Parks** (***Conservation of Areas***); **Doug Janz** of **Environment** (***Policy Development***); and **Alex Grzybowski** of **Tourism** (***Old Growth Values***). The teams were also provided with access to funds for independent research and with staff support for meetings. Project meetings have been organized to provide intensive working time for the teams, inter-team collaboration on areas of common interest and general plenary sessions to air overall project concerns.

Organization of Work

The project work so far has been planned, organized and reviewed at 4 team workshops at which all participants attend. Each workshop was supported by a detailed agenda, team recorders, an overall chairman and working minutes for the teams. Workshops are normally followed by individual work sessions by teams and some joint meetings where needed. Each team has arranged for consultancy and research support with both purpose and funds approved by the IMC and supplied by the Ministry of Forests.

Public Involvement Process

The project was designed to involve representatives of the range of publics interested in old growth issues directly as participants in the working teams. Project participants number between 60-70 with a few alternates attending from time to time and a turnover of 5 participants who were replaced by representatives of the same interest group.

Efforts have been made to balance the interests represented on each team and to ensure that concerns arising from any sector have been brought to the regular workshops of the project. The project workshops, which were held in April in Parksville, June in Qualicum, September in Manning Park, and November in Harrison Lake have been open to the press. Two further meetings are planned for Parksville in January and Victoria for March of 1991.

The individual working teams have met regularly in between project workshops both to pursue their own agendas and to meet with other teams to coordinate activity. In every

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case the travel and accommodation expenses of public participants in the project have been provided by the Ministry of Forests through the project office.

The project has been accompanied by a public dialogue using the following methods:

- All bulletins are mailed to an extensive provincial mailing list of interested organizations and individuals. This list remains open for additions at any time.
- Participants in the project teams are drawn from interest groups which have their own internal bulletins and feedback systems which are being used to gather public response to the ideas arising within the project.
- Press releases are issued from time to time by the Minister of Forests.
- Interested environmental and industry organizations and members of the public were invited to submit candidate old growth areas for short term deferral and to provide requests for review of the interim recommendations on deferral areas.
- Plans for 1991 include: a series of team visits with the public of six coast and interior resource dependent communities; wide distribution of the Interim Report; distribution of a second Research Bulletin; and publication of the Old Growth Strategy document in April 1991 as a provincial discussion paper.

Public Information Bulletins

Information on the project has been regularly published for both the project participants and for public consumption in project bulletins which include:

Towards and Old Growth Strategy: summary of the old growth workshop
February 1990

Towards an Old Growth Strategy: Executive Summary of Old Growth Workshop Recommendations:
February 1990

Spring Bulletin: The Old Growth Project is launched.
May 1990

Identifying An Initial List of Candidate Areas for Short Term Deferral
May 1990

Reports and Work Plans arising from the second meeting of the Old Growth Working Groups
July 1990

Research Bulletin: Ecological Research and Inventory Team, Reports in Progress I
August 1990

Short Term deferral of Critical Areasof Old Growth: recommendations of the Conservation of Areas Team Sub-Committee
September 1990

Conservation of Areas: Deferral Review Process
October 1990

Fall Bulletin: Components of the Old Growth Strategy: Objectives and Planned Results of the Sector Teams
October 1990

Conservation of Areas Short Term Deferral Review Update
November 1990

Research Bulletin: Ecological Research and Inventory Team, Reports in Progres II
January 1991

Old Growth Strategy Interim Report
January 1991

DEFERRAL OF CRITICAL OLD GROWTH STANDS FROM HARVEST

Rationale for Deferral

The most contentious area of work by the project has been the short term deferral of areas. Deferral of critical areas of old growth, especially those in short supply in the form of remaining intact wilderness drainages and increasingly rare forest types, was seen by the environmental community as an essential starting point for the project. It was felt that the project could not proceed legitimately if the short-supply old growth areas were compromised while the strategists talked. Other parties in the project were very concerned that the early attempt to define areas for any form of reserve status would either compromise the long term agenda or inadequately reflect economic and social impacts on forest licensees and their dependent communities.

The Deferral Process

The Conservation of Areas team, through a sub-committee, solicited public comment on suitable candidate areas for deferral pending development of a long range conservation strategy that would set aside representatives of old-growth forest from all biogeoclimatic zones of the province. The short term process required the development of deferral criteria, screening of proposals, presentation of recommendations, review of conflicts, assembly of social and economic impact information from affected parties, and referral to the IMC and Cabinet for deferral decisions.

Review of Deferral Decisions

As all areas proposed for short term deferral were those where logging or road building was thought to be imminent, the anticipated conflicts between conservation and economic interests arose immediately. These conflicts have become the subject of a Deferral Review Process in which the conservation criteria have been re-applied to areas where better information has become available. In addition the IMC has assembled impact information from forest licensees and communities in preparing to make cabinet recommendations on deferral areas.

An Act of Good Faith

The Deferral of Areas process has involved a very large effort by members of the public, project volunteers, government personnel, Forest District personnel, the old growth office and people representing companies and communities. The process sometimes overtook the capacity of the project personnel to cover all the communications necessary to keep all parties informed up to the minute. While it has been difficult to deliver and is only a beginning, the extensive commitment to the process has been an act of good faith on behalf of all parties to the old growth project.

The project membership has taken the approach that the deferral review process will provide the laboratory for testing a reservation procedure that will meet public concerns for preservation of representative old growth stands while balancing with the economic interests of resource-dependent communities.

Results of the Deferral Process to December 31, 1990

Of the 89 areas originally proposed for deferral by public interest organizations, government agencies and individuals, the Conservation of Areas sub-committee recommendations of September 5, 1990 were:

17 were proposed for deferral because they met all the deferral criteria

20 were proposed for map notation because they had old growth values but were not under imminent threat

25 were held to have old growth value but were involved in other public planning processes to which they were referred

11 were not recommended for deferral because they did not meet the criteria

8 were referred to study of marbled murrelet habitat pending any decisions to preserve or log

4 were considered too large or complex for the sub-committee to deal with under the deferral criteria

2 were so large as to require referral to larger government studies

2 were not site-specific but referred more to management practices

Upon receipt of the sub-committee recommendations, the Old Growth Project Office published them for the project participants and the public while forwarding them to the IMC for initial consideration. Immediate concerns were expressed from interested parties which ranged from concern that too few areas were recommended for deferral, to concern that too little information about industry and community impact was evident in the report.

These concerns led to the development by project participants of a Deferral Review Process which would revisit the original recommendations where there was new information to use in applying the conservation criteria and also provide an opportunity to collect the essential economic and social impact information from affected parties.

Reviews have been conducted during October to December 1990 and will be concluded early in January 1991. In each case there has been a consultant report on the factual information available about each area and contact with Ministry of Forests District personnel to verify boundaries, actual forest types and license considerations.

To date the IMC has presented 20 recommendations to Cabinet. The results are listed on the following pages.

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Area Proposed	*Cabinet Decision*
FORT NELSON AREA:	
• Prophet River	deferred to protect alluvial Spruce
• Sikanni chief River	deferred to protect alluvial Spruce
ROBSON VALLEY AREA:	
• Ozalenka/Clyde	harvesting not imminent but special notations filed to re-consider in case of harvest proposals
• Lower Dore	as above
• Betty Wendle Watershed	refer to local planning process for consideration of old growth values
• Tete Jaune	as above
• East Twin/Fleet	as above
• Upper Dore	no deferral because no old growth
• Morkill	allow logging but protect an old growth valley corridor for wildlife
• West Twin	increase the area proposed and defer but allow existing cutblocks to proceed
• Rausch	no deferral due to economic impact on community
GOLDEN AREA:	
Cummins River	refer to local operational plans for consideration of old growth interests for cedar/hemlock
BRIDGE RIVER AREA:	
Tyaughton Cr.	refer to local planning processes re montane Spruce values
HOPE AREA:	
Sumallo/ Snass	defer to protect old growth hemlock and spotted owl habitat; refer area to the Spotted Owl Recovery Team

Area Proposed	*Cabinet Decision*
CHILLIWACK AREA	
Sowaqua/Karen Cr.	defer to protect old growth hemlock and spotted owl habitat except for one previously approved cut block; refer to the Spotted Owl Recovery Team
Sumas Mt.	no deferral due to similar old growth in adjacent park; boundaries of the harvest plan changed to allow for more natural appearance
VANCOUVER ISLAND AREA	
Klacklakama Lake, Nimpkish	no deferral due to no criticalold growth stands present
Nahmint Lake	no deferral due to incorrect identification of site in original proposal; nearby site with old growth Douglas Fir values has been located, is not under imminent development but will be placed under map notation
Klaskish/East Cr.	refer to Ministry of Forests planning team for the Brooks TSA; also refer to the Ministry of Parks for possible increase to Klaskish Ecological Reserve
Cachalot Cr.	refer to West Strathcona Planning Process re the operational plan for the area

A WORKING DEFINITION OF OLD GROWTH

Project participants accepted as a working definition for old growth the one presented in March of 1990 by the Forest Land Use Liaison Committee. Detailed work on scientific definitions is being conducted by the Research and Inventory Team and will be published in the eventual Strategy. The FLULC definition reads:

" Old growth can be described as a forest that contains live and dead trees of various sizes, species composition and age class structure that are part of a slowly changing but dynamic ecosystem. Old growth forests include "climax" forest, but do not exclude subclimax or even mid-seral forests. The age and structure of old growth varies significantly by forest type and from one biogeoclimatic zone to another. For example, a coastal old growth forest could be 200 years old or 1,000 years old; whereas interior old growth could be 100 years old.

The age at which old growth develops and the specific structural attributes that characterize old growth will vary widely according to forest type, climate, site conditions, and disturbance regime. However old growth is typically distinguished from younger growth by several of the following attributes:

- *large trees for species and site*
- *wide variation in tree sizes and spacing*
- *accumulation of large size dead-standing and fallen trees*
- *multiple canopy layers*
- *canopy gaps and understory patchiness*
- *decadence in the form of broken or deformed tops or bole, downed logs and root decay.* ***(Franklin, 1989)"***

DECEMBER 1990 PROGRESS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGY

This progress report includes points of consensus among project participants, statements of the goals of the project, the objectives developed to achieve these goals, the planned results to be achieved under each objective and the progress to date. As this is an interim report, the final form of these statements will undergo further change as the project continues. In April, 1991 a draft strategy will be produced in the form of a provincial discussion paper. In a field as complex as old growth management, it is essential to keep the door open to the new insights and better understanding that will come from the continuing work of all parties to this project.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGY

"The purpose of the Old Growth Strategy is to provide a framework for managing old growth forest ecosystems in British Columbia. The framework will integrate management considerations for the spectrum of old growth forest values present in all ecological zones. The strategy will be developed through the cooperation of all sectors for the benefit of present and future generations.

The strategy will embrace the many ecological, economic and social values associated with old growth forest ecosystems. These include but are not limited to: biological diversity; wildlife and fisheries habitat; fibre and mineral values; community stability; recreation and tourism; water quality and quantity; scientific, genetic and educational values; and cultural, wilderness, spiritual, aesthetic, existence and bequest values.

The strategy will identify opportunities for old growth management. These include reservation of significant areas of old growth forest ecosystems in their natural state, the carry-over of selected old growth attributes into or their creation within young managed forests, or the conversion of old growth forests to new forests."

AREAS OF EMERGING CONSENSUS

The following statements represent the views of individual teams and the participants in the project. They are the areas of common ground that have emerged during the project that illustrate the basis for cooperative discussion and development of the project objectives.

1. *Definition Improvement*

Research and Inventory Team

Our inventory of old growth and the attributes considered to be important for defining old growth must be improved.

Conservation of Areas Team

The general old growth definition developed by FLULC should be embellished to reflect more specific reference to flora and fauna.

> *"Conservation" means:*
> *" The wise use, or allocation and management of forest areas and their natural systems within the context of sustaining both economical and biological sustainability and diversity, which allows for the eventual identification of: a) working or commodity forest b) fully protected areas c) special management or transition areas."*

2. *Diversity*

Research and Inventory Team

Our current old growth reserves do not adequately represent the diversity of old growth ecosystems in B.C. and their values.

3. *Project Communications*

Conservation of Areas Team

A local level process for communication and consultation is essential to the strategy.

Points of Protocol from Project Workshops

Communication with forest districts, licensees, and communities must be improved for the deferral process.

The project should make efforts to establish formal links via the IMC with the Roundtable, FRC, Parks Plan 90, Environment 2001, ABCPF Land Use Plan, Endangered Spaces.

The project should adopt a means of contact with communities and native groups to cover gaps in our current consultation process. (Also trappers, guide-outfitters, etc)

4. *Balanced Biological, Ecological, and Social Perspectives*

Points of Protocol from Project Workshop Discussion

Project purpose, goals, objectives, and planned results should balance reservation and management interests with the economic and social needs of affected parties: licensees, employees, communities.

Research and Inventory Team

Old Growth conservation/management must consider people and their economic/social needs, by developing programs for public involvement and minimizing social impacts.

Sustainable forestry must deplete neither ecosystems nor people.

Conservation of Areas Team

We should develop a consensus statement on sustainable development to set the context for the strategy.

"The project should have a clearly stated goal of sustainable development within which ecological objectives would be balanced with the economic and social requirements of the province, and regions of the province for today with an eye to the future."

The strategy must integrate social and biological objectives.

Values Team

An effective old growth strategy will foster creative solutions that integrate ecological and socio-economic values.

Management Practices Team

The concept of sustainable development is endorsed by the team.

5. *Integrated Management*

Values Team

The three essential Elements of an Old Growth Strategy are:

a. Integrated Values Management:
   - Manage to optimize the values of the timber
   - Move from protection of other forest values to management for those values (eg. wildlife,aesthetics, water)

b. Integrated Values Management:
   - Manage to emphasize old growth values through appropriate forest management techniques. (eg. high quality timber, biodiversity, aesthetics)

c. Preservation of old growth forests for a range of values (eg. biodiversity, spiritual values)

Research and Inventory Team

Management of old growth forests is an interministry responsibility.

6. *Improved Management Practices*

Research and Inventory Team

We can and should maintain some old growth attributes/values by modifying current forest practices on part of the landscape.

Management Practices Team

We acknowledge that we can enhance our management practices for creation or maintenance of old growth structural attributes and will investigate these opportunities.

We are proposing that practices for creation or maintenance of old growth structural attributes can be applied only where appropriate, at the landscape and stand levels.

We will make recommendations on how to develop a process to address old growth considerations within the managed forest. We will, to the extent possible, define opportunities for specific practices within two ecological zones being studied.

7. *Project Decision-Making and Communications*

Project Workshop Discussions

Participant concerns go first to team colleagues then to the project, and finally to the IMC for resolution of disputes.

Decisions of teams are checked with team participants and then "signed off" by chairmen before publication.

Representation on the project for new team members should be by general agreement with project participants as a whole and the relevant team with a view to maintaining a balance of interests and staying within budget.

Project decisions that impact on other public planning efforts at the local/regional level should be respectful of the process and participants.

The project should adopt a package of consensus agreements to assist the further development of the strategy components.

Project participants would like to have concrete evidence of political support sufficient to justify the work being done.

Endorsement of original team mandates from the first bulletin should be incorporated into any revised terms of reference.

OVERALL PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, PLANNED RESULTS AND PROGRESS TO DATE

GOAL A

To develop a strategy for managing old growth forest ecosystems through government, private sector and public cooperation and consultation.

Objective 1
Team responsible: **Research**

To inform all interested parties about the extent of published work on old growth forests relevant to British Columbia.

Planned Result: An annotated bibliography of old growth literature to be produced by January 1991.

Progress: The draft bibliography is circulating for comment and will be produced as scheduled.

Objective 2
Team responsible: **Policy**

To provide for public involvement, communication, and education on old growth forests.

Planned Results: A process for public involvement in the implementation of the Old Growth Strategy. A program to cultivate public awareness of Old Growth ecosystems function, management, and values.

Progress: This work is scheduled for January-February 1991

Objective 3
Teams responsible: **Management & Conservation of Areas**

To assist in developing a framework for management for old growth objectives at the landscape level.

Planned Result: The Management Practices Team will meet with the Conservation of Areas Team in November/December to define the specific roles each team will play in development of a landscape planning approach. From the results of this meeting, several team members will prepare an outline of recommendations for management of old-growth at the landscape level. These recommendations will be discussed at the January meeting.

Progress: The Conservation of Areas Team has produced a working draft of the framework which provides principles, objectives and criteria for the following elements of the old growth conservation framework:

- biological/ecological values
- tourism/recreation values
- spiritual/heritage values
- commodity values

This draft will be refined in January for discussion at the team workshop in Parksville.

Objective 4
Team responsible: **Research**

To conduct a "problem analysis" for old growth which reviews the state of existing information and identifies the information gaps which should be addressed by the research program.

Planned Results: A published "problem analysis" in draft form for October 31, 1990 and final publication in March 1991.

Progress: The analysis will be ready for review in January 1991 and ready for general distribution in March 1991 as scheduled.

Objective 5
Team Responsible: **Policy**

To assess the legislation, policies, procedures and processes for identification of agency mandates, coordination of activity, and implementation of the strategy at the provincial level

Planned Result: A system for inter-agency co-ordination for the activity on the strategy related to research, inventory, forest management, assessment of social and economic values, conservation of areas, public involvement, communications, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy. There will also be a review of legislation with recommendations for defining agency mandates.

Progress: Work on this objective is scheduled for January-February 1991

Objective 6
Team responsible: **Policy**

To review the existing planning systems and processes at the regional level in order to identify their current capacity to accommodate old growth values, management, conservation and public involvement objectives. Initially this would involve the Ministries of Parks, Forest, Environment, Crown Lands, Tourism, and Regional and Economic Development.

Planned Results: A set of recommended policies and procedures to improve the effectiveness of existing agency and inter-agency planning systems in recognizing old growth objectives and implementing the old growth strategy.

Progress: The team has developed a draft matrix for:

- determining how planing processes can meet regional need and old growth objectives
- assessing gaps in planning systems relative to old growth
- identifying how old growth values can be better represented at different government levels

Research is proceeding on the roles of regional agencies and on the statutes of other jurisdictions that might be relevant for presentation and discussion at the January 1991 team workshop.

Objective 7
Team responsible: **Research**

To conduct a specific research program in support of the information needs of the sector teams of the old growth project.

Planned Result: A block of approximately 30 research projects requested by old growth project sector teams. Fourteen of these initiatives were listed in the August Research Bulletin. The full list will be published by January 1991.

Progress: An extensive list of research initiatives is under way and is published for general public circulation in the second Research Bulletin of December 1990 which will be circulated early in January 1991.

GOAL B

To ensure that a selection of old growth forest ecosystems, representative of all ecological zones of the province, are reserved in their natural state.

Objective 1
Teams responsible: **COA & Policy**

To integrate the long-term strategy for old growth reserves into a framework within existing land-use designations (Parks, Ecological Reserves, Wilderness) to ensure conservation of old growth forests. The framework will be representative of the biogeoclimatic zones of the province and sensitive to the range of old growth values identified and articulated by the Old Growth Values Team.

Conservation may be defined as: " The wise use, allocation, and management of forest areas and their natural systems, within the context of economic and biological sustainability and diversity, which allows for the eventual identification of: a) working or commodity forests b) fully protected areas c) special management or transition areas."

Planned Result: An administrative framework will specify land use designation categories. The framework will be supported by statements of principles and objectives for conserving ecological, recreational, spiritual, cultural, social and economic values within a) core old growth forest land reserves representative of the biodiversity of the province; b) commodity forests and c) specially managed forests.

Progress: The principles, objectives and criteria statements are being edited by the consultant to the team (Dr. Gary Runka of LandSense Ltd.). The edited document will be reviewed by the team in early January, 1991 and distributed to the full team workshop later in the month.

The team is presently reviewing the relationship between the conservation of areas framework and the existing structures of Parks 90, The Ecoreserve System Plan, The Wilderness System

Plan and the proposed "Resource Area Concept" being discussed by the Ministry of Forests for use in regional planning.

Objective 2
Team responsible: **Research**

To improve the usability of the B.C. Forest Inventory in determining how much old growth exists under the working definitions and where it is located within TFL's, TSA's and major parks.

Planned Result: A system for questioning the inventory data base to get the information on old growth desired in quantitative and geographical form by biogeoclimatic zones and for major parks. TSA data to be available for the Coast and the Southern Interior by Nov. 1990 and for TFL's by March 1991. For most Parks there are current usable inventories. The exceptions are some of the large parks established before the inventory program including Wells Gray, Tweedsmuir and Strathcona.

Progress: Research projects are under way for:

- evaluation of satellite imagery as a tool for conducting inventories of old growth forests
- analyzing the extent of old growth in the Coastal Western Hemlock, Coastal Douglas Fir, Interior Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine and Interior Cedar-Hemlock forest types for completion in January 1991.
- mapping the location of old growth in the Coastal Douglas Fir and Interior Douglas Fir zones with maps to be available by March 31, 1991.
- inventory of old growth forests on DND land
- development of fragmentation indices, work which will begin before March 1991 but will extend later in the year.

(details are published in the Research Bulletin of December 1990, which will be circulated separately in January, 1991)

Objective 3
Team responsible: **Research**

To prepare definitions of old growth relevant to each biogeoclimatic zone and to forested ecosystems within each zone.

Planned Result: A set of working definitions of old growth for each zone.

Progress: Working definitions have been prepared for use in the inventory process described above.

GOAL C

To ensure that old growth forests ecosystems are managed to meet the social, cultural, environmental and economic needs of society

Objective 1
Team responsible: **Values**

To articulate the full range of values inherent in old growth forests and to prepare an assessment framework for evaluating both the quantifiable and the intangible effects of land use and management options in general and on specific sites.

Planned Result: The final report of the Values Team will present a system of old growth values and an evaluation framework to assess the impacts of old growth conservation and management options identified in the Study. The results of the report are intended to help refine the tools for assessing both the objective and subjective values for use in the long term strategy.

Progress: A draft Values Report has been prepared by the team consultants (Julia Gardner and Susan Abs) and is presently undergoing editing by the team for presentation and discussion at the January 1991 team workshop.

Objective 2
Team responsible: Values

To form a better understanding about the nature of rural community dependence on the forest sector, the importance of community stability and forest-based employment to residents of affected communities.

Planned Result: A paper discussing the issues surrounding community stability and a practical and workable framework for assessing the impact of old growth management or land use options on dependent communities. The framework will be tested on sample communities.

Progress: The team has commissioned H.A. Symons Strategic Services Division (Brett Gellner) to develop the framework and to conduct a community stability study using Powell River and Port McNeil as reference communities to test the framework against realistic information.

Objective 3
Team responsible: Values

To document old growth values and the methods available for measuring those values on specific sites

Planned Result: A practical and workable multiple accounts framework for assessing the impacts of old growth management and land use options will be tested in sample areas.

Progress: The team has commissioned Marvin Shaffer and Associates to prepare a Socio-Economic Evaluation Framework based upon the idea of a multiple accounts system. A draft has been prepared which attempts to analyse and measure socio-economic costs and benefits on both the provincial and regional level. The evaluation framework will be refined using realistic data drawn from the Tahsish-Kwois and Spruce Lake areas where extensive studies provide adequate data to test the proposed system.

Objective 4
Team responsible: Management

To design a framework for assessing the utility of various forest management practices in conserving specific old-growth structural attributes where they are required.

Planned Result: A description of the process used to assess management practices for their ability to create or maintain old-growth structural attributes in two biogeoclimatic zone examples -one from the coast (CWH) and one from the interior (SBS).

Progress: Work to date on this objective includes:

- the decision to use the maintenance of biodiversity and maintenance of long term biological productivity as the overall ecological basis for the review of management practices
- the decision that any guidelines or information on practices developed by the team does not imply their universal application, but rather a site-specific basis consistent with local management objectives for the forest.
- the preparation of lists of old growth structural attributes for the two zones and the preparation of a report on current practices from members of the team. The team has also conducted field trips into selected sites in the two zones in an attempt to clarify concepts and issues relating to management practices used in the two zones.

Objective 5
Team responsible: Management

To investigate forest management practices at the stand level for their suitability in conserving defined old-growth structural attributes in the managed forests of the two zonal examples.

Planned Result: A questionnaire will target 40 - 50 operational personnel and other forestry experts, identified by team members, to provide

input on current or alternative management practices that create or maintain old growth structural attributes. This questionnaire will specifically deal with managed forests, at the stand level, within the two zones of interest. The results will be analyzed to develop a list of practices that could be used to meet a variety of old growth management objectives. The results will be a major item of discussion during our January meetings.

Progress: Initial preparation of a report on current practices from members of the team has been followed up by a practitioners questionnaire being distributed to 40 people at the end of November, 1990. Data from the questionnaire will be evaluated to:

a) compile a list of practices which appear to show promise in their ability to manage for an attribute in some circumstances.
b) find areas of general agreement which would indicate the possibility that a practice may be suitable for a wide variety of circumstances.
c) identify information gaps and research needs where considerable disagreement or lack of understanding is illustrated.

Replies will be summarized for presentation to the team workshop in January, 1991

Objective 6
Team responsible: **Management**

To investigate management practices which are most effectively dealt with at the landscape level.

Planned Result: Once the framework for management at the landscape level is clear, the management team will develop a list of practices specific to the landscape level that can be used to manage for old-growth objectives and integrate these with other management objectives.

Progress: The first step in this objective has been completed with the publication of Doug Hopwood's paper on "New Forestry" which will be published in January, 1991. Completion of the work on this objective awaits the conclusion of the work in progress noted above.

Objective 7
Team responsible: **Management**

To develop recommendations relating to research, administration, and procedures necessary to implement practices specific to old-growth management.

Planned Result: Once the framework for old-growth management at the stand and landscape level is clear, and a list of potential practices is formulated, we will identify economic, research, administration and procedural gaps and make recommendations accordingly. Some of this work may be initiated prior to completion of the management frameworks, to allow the team sufficient time to discuss these important recommendations.

Progress: Work in this objective will follow the January team workshop in January, 1991.

Objective 8
Team responsible: **Policy**

To review the specific management policies and guidelines being used at the landscape level for the development of management zones, conservation of biodiversity, calculation of the AAC, determination of community support, wildlife management, recreation and tourism, in which old growth concerns are relevant.

Planned Result: A set of guidelines for establishment of landscape and stand level actions to recognize and respond to old growth objectives including: core conservation areas, critical habitat designation, forest management practices, silvicultural alternatives, and the establishment of management and buffer zone boundaries.

Progress: Work on this objective will follow the receipt of the consultant reports now underway.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGY

At this stage of the project, participants are beginning to cast their thoughts beyond the April 1991 publication of the draft old growth strategy in its provincial discussion paper format. Initial thinking on the implementation phase of the project includes the following ideas. These and others will be discussed at the forthcoming meetings of the project in January and March, 1991.

CONTINUATION OF INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

Government may ensure continued interest and cooperation among the participating ministries by maintaining the Inter-Ministry Management Committee as the body to oversee implementation of the project recommendations.

CONTINUITY OF THE RESEARCH EFFORT

The scientific, economic and social research agenda identified in the draft strategy will need continued funding and organizational support. This could become the responsibility of a research team drawn from project participants and maintained as a working unit.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES RECOMMENDATIONS

Generating a provincial framework of reserved areas to reflect representative old growth values will be a long and difficult job. An inter-agency technical team could be maintained with a continuing mandate to pursue the reserved lands suggested by the old growth conservation of areas framework and to keep the public informed of its progress.

A similar inter-agency technical team could be established to continue the elaboration of the management practices guidelines into a form suitable for regional and local adaptation by practicing foresters and incorporation into regular planning and operations.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE DRAFT STRATEGY

A public participation process should accompany the publication of the draft strategy in order to ensure that the ideas and recommendations for old growth management are widely discussed and achieve a reasonable degree of public approval. This process should also ensure linkage with the public results of the other land use planning processes running concurrently with the old growth project.

The continued public process could also serve as the mechanism for public monitoring of progress on the implementation phase. To this end a public conference in November of 1991 could provide an early forum to assess progress and to renew efforts where required.